



Summer 2016

Maryland



Nutrient Management News

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

TIER GROUP FIV DATA DUE BY SEPTEMBER 30

A key component of the Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT) requires farms with high soil phosphorus levels to be categorized into three tiers (high, medium, and low) based on an average of all fields with a Fertility Index Value (FIV) of 150 or greater. These tiers govern how long a farmer has to transition to the PMT. Based on soil test data provided by consultants and certified farmers, every farm in the state containing fields with soil phosphorus levels of 150 FIV or more will be placed into one of the three tiers.

Certified farmers and consultants are required to report this average farm FIV data to the department by **September 30, 2016**. Reporting forms and instructions will be mailed to all consultants and certified farmers by August 1. *Questions? Contact Bryan Harris, Implementation Coordinator, at 410-841-5951 or bryan.harris@mda.maryland.gov.*



MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY BARTENFELDER

Earlier this spring, I met with the agriculture secretaries and commissioners from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia to discuss our shared interests and goals in protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay while maintaining a profitable agriculture industry in our respective states. On the surface, these two goals may appear to have little in common, but anyone who works the land for a living can tell you that productive soil, clean water, and healthy food go hand in hand.

Of importance to farmers is the latest Chesapeake Bay Report Card issued by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science that shows our hard work is paying off. In 2015, the Bay received an overall

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TEMPORARY MANURE STOCKPILING GUIDELINES

To promote compliance with the Nutrient Management Program, farmers who temporarily stockpile manure are reminded of the following requirements:

- Manure storage structures should be completely utilized before starting a stockpile.
- Manure in temporary stockpiles must be land applied *no later than the first spring following the placement of the stockpile.*
- Keep a record of the date that the stockpile was started.
- The stockpile area must be:
 - At least 100 feet from any surface water and irrigation or treatment ditches, or 35 feet away if a vegetative buffer is in place.
 - At least 150 feet from wells, springs, and wetlands.
 - At least 300 feet from a well that is down gradient from the stockpile.
 - At least 200 feet from any residence outside the operator's property.
 - Outside flood prone areas and areas prone to ponding.
 - No further than 150 feet from the top of a 3 percent slope with no diversion installed.
- The stockpile must be stacked at least 6 feet high and peaked to allow it to shed rainfall.
- Materials should be stockpiled in a manner that prevents nutrient runoff.
- If the manure stockpile will be exported off the farm, provide the date that the manure was shipped along with the name and address of the recipient and an estimate of the tonnage exported.
- Following removal of the stockpile, the ground must be thoroughly scraped or cleaned and the area restored to its original condition. If necessary, reseed the area with grass or an agronomic crop to facilitate nutrient uptake.
- Subsequent stockpiles should be placed in the same location to minimize environmental impact.

Questions? Contact your regional nutrient management specialist listed on the back of this newsletter.

COVER CROP SIGN-UP UNDERWAY

Sign-up for the Maryland Department of Agriculture's 2016-2017 Cover Crop Program runs June 24 through July 15, at soil conservation district offices state-wide. Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to apply for attractive grants to plant cover crops in your fields this fall to recycle unused plant nutrients, protect against erosion, and help improve the soil for next year's crop. Studies have shown that planting cover crops in the fall can increase yields of cash crops like corn and soybeans after only a few years.

To support diversity and give farmers more planting options, small grain/legume mixes containing crimson clover, Austrian winter peas or hairy vetch are now eligible for grants. Approximately \$22.5 million in conservation grants is available for this year's program.

Maryland's nutrient management regulations require farmers to plant cover crops to help protect water quality when organic nutrient sources are applied to fields in the fall.

The Cover Crop Program is administered by the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund. Applicants must be in good standing with MACS and in compliance with the Nutrient Management Program. For more information, visit mda.maryland.gov and click on "Hot Topics."





DEPARTMENT STILL ACCEPTING SOIL DATA

Help with Soil Testing Available

Maryland's Phosphorus Management Tool Regulations require nutrient management plan preparers to provide the department with soil data indicating phosphorus Fertility Index Values (FIV) for every field on every farm in the state, regardless of the field's FIV level. This data will provide MDA with accurate soil fertility information to monitor trends in phosphorus levels and help identify potential areas to redistribute available manure. Although the department has been accepting soil data information from certified farmers and consultants since last fall, many fields are still unaccounted for in the state. Over the next several weeks, Nutrient Management Program staff will be calling farmers to obtain unreported soil data information.

MDA is working with FFA chapters throughout the state to provide assistance to farmers who are having difficulty collecting their soil samples. Interested farmers should contact their regional nutrient management specialist listed on the back of this newsletter for instructions on how to obtain this free assistance. MDA anticipates that soil sampling assistance will be available through mid-August.

On June 14, visitors to Days End Farm Horse Rescue in Howard County got the scoop on a newly installed manure composting system that was financed as a demonstration by the Maryland Animal Waste Technology Fund. This closed in-vessel composting system can process 1.5 ton batches of horse manure in two weeks while reducing the environmental factors that impact composting success. *(A larger capacity system is being demonstrated on a dairy farm in Frederick County.)* The final compost product will be used for bedding, on site landscaping needs, and possible sale to a local nursery. It is estimated that nutrients and volume of inputs will be reduced by 50 percent and that the farm will save approximately \$12,000 a year in landfill expenses and reduced bedding costs. For more information on additional grant projects, visit mda.maryland.gov and type "Animal Waste Technology Fund" in the search box.





URBAN UPDATE

Renewal Forms Mailed

Renewal forms for Professional Fertilizer Applicators (PFAs), trained employees, and Fertilizer Business License holders were mailed in late May. PFA renewal forms were mailed to home addresses provided on the application form, while business licenses and trained employee renewal forms were mailed directly to businesses. PFA certifications and business licenses must be renewed annually by June 30. Please contact the Turfgrass Nutrient Management Program if you have not received your renewal forms.

Annual Fertilizer Application Reports

Annual Fertilizer Application Reports for Calendar Year 2015 were due to the department by March 1. If you have not submitted your report, please do so immediately. Keep in mind that an Annual Fertilizer Application Report must be filed with the department, even if it shows no activity.

Contact Information

For questions about certification, re-certification, continuing education credits, or other concerns, please call or email the Turfgrass Nutrient Management Program directly.

Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore

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Central and Western Maryland

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Farm with Certainty

MARYLAND'S AGRICULTURAL CERTAINTY PROGRAM

The top conservation certification program for Maryland farmers.



Get the recognition you deserve.

Ag Certainty Program Now Accepting Applications

Maryland's top conservation certification program is now accepting applications from farmers who have installed best management practices on their farms that meet the Chesapeake Bay's 2025 water quality goals today. Benefits include:

- A 10-year exemption from new environmental regulations
- Recognition that your farm is protecting water quality
- Pre-qualification for nutrient trading.

Call or visit your local soil conservation district to enroll in this voluntary certification program. For more information, visit mda.maryland.gov and type "Agricultural Certainty Program" in the search box.

NEW NUTRIENT APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS KICK IN JULY 1



Beginning July 1, 2016, nutrient applications will be prohibited between November 2 and February 28 for farms on the Eastern Shore and between November 16 and February 28 for farms on the Western Shore. The requirement is part of Maryland's updated nutrient management regulations which were adopted in 2012 and are being phased in over the next several years. The requirement applies to all farms with 50 or more animal units (one animal unit equals 1,000 lbs of live animal weight). Farms with fewer than 50 animals have until March 1, 2020 to comply.



TRAINING CALENDAR

AGRICULTURAL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Consultant Nutrient Management Exam

Date:	August 5, 2016
Locations:	Annapolis, Boonsboro, and Salisbury
Who Should Attend:	Individuals who want to take the exam to become certified to write nutrient management plans for farmers.

Agricultural Nutrient Management Update Training

Save the Date:	December 7, 2016
Location:	National Wildlife Visitor Center, Laurel
Who Should Attend:	Farmers, consultants, and anyone who makes nutrient management recommendations. Check the website for registration information later this summer.

Learn and Earn Continuing Education Credits On-Line

Ongoing:	Many educational programs qualify for Maryland Nutrient Management continuing education credits. Even if you can't attend a webinar session "live," you may be able to earn continuing education credits at a later date.
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How to Register

On the web:	Visit mda.maryland.gov and click on Nutrient Management in the Quick Links Bar. Follow the link to training classes. Registration forms are available in PDF format.
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TURFGRASS NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Professional Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training/Exam

Dates/Locations:	July 13 or August 8 (Derwood), July 19 or August 24 (Annapolis), August 16 (Salisbury)
Who Should Attend:	Individuals who want to take the exam to become certified to apply fertilizer to lawns that they manage. Optional training sessions will be available.

Professional Fertilizer Applicator Continuing Education Offerings

Dates:	New exam dates and continuing education offerings are being planned and will be posted on the website as soon as they are finalized.
Locations:	Statewide
Who Should Attend:	Individuals who are currently certified by the department. The class satisfies the two-hour continuing education requirement for recertification.

How to Register

On the web:	Visit mda.maryland.gov/fertilizer
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Secretary's Message cont. from page 1

health score of 53 percent toward reaching a broad set of water quality indicators, one of the highest scores recorded in a non-drought year. According to the report, the 2015 score represents the third consecutive year of improved health. Improvements in Bay health are Bay-wide, according to the researchers, with scores in almost every reporting region showing improvement.

This welcome news reflects the work of many Bay stakeholders, including wastewater treatment facilities that discharge to the Bay and farmers who have installed thousands of best management practices on their farms over the years to control soil erosion, manage nutrients and protect water quality. Planting cover crops on fields following the fall harvest to control soil erosion and recycle leftover crop nutrients continues to give us the most bang for our buck, so to speak. With more than 500,000 acres planted last year, we hope to continue this upward trend for the Bay and increase the acreage benefitted by using cover crops in cropping systems. On that note, I encourage all farmers to visit their local soil conservation district office during our cover crop enrollment period which runs from June 24 through July 15.

Sincerely,



Joe Bartenfelder
Maryland Agriculture Secretary



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Nutrient Management Program
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 Annapolis, MD 21401
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Larry Hogan, *Governor*
 Boyd K. Rutherford, *Lt. Governor*
 Joseph Bartenfelder, *Secretary*
 James P. Eichhorst, *Deputy Secretary*

Western Maryland

Maryland Department of Agriculture
Nutrient Management Specialists

Allegheny, Garrett and Washington counties
 12407 Naves Cross Road, NE
 Cumberland, MD 21502
 Contact: Keith Potter, 301-777-1747, ext. 116
 or keith.potter@maryland.gov

Frederick County
 92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 110
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 Contact: Moana Himes, 301-694-9290, ext. 136
 or moana.himes@maryland.gov

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 92 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 110
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 Contact: Jessica James, 301-694-9290, ext. 137
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Central and Southern Maryland

Baltimore, Cecil and Harford counties
 2205 Commerce Road, Suite C
 Forest Hill, MD 21050
 Contact: Darren Alles, 410-838-6181, ext. 118
 or darren.alles@maryland.gov

Anne Arundel, Carroll and Prince George's counties
 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Suite 201
 Annapolis, MD 21401
 Contact: (John) Adam Lyon 410-841-5949
 or adam.lyon@maryland.gov

Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties
 26737 Radio Station Way, Suite B
 Leonardtown, MD 20650
 Contact: Weylin Anderson, 301-475-8402, ext.122
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Eastern Shore

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 Easton, MD 21601
 Contact: Howard Callahan, 410-822-8126
 or howard.callahan@maryland.gov

Caroline and Dorchester counties
 28577 Mary's Court, Suite 4
 Easton, MD 21601
 Contact: Dan Schwaninger, 410-822-8120
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Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties
 27722 Nanticoke Road, Unit 2
 Salisbury, MD 21801
 Contact: Steven Dorsey, 410-677-0802, ext. 4
 or steve.dorsey@maryland.gov

Nutrient Management Notes

▶ HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please help us keep your contact information up-to-date. Call your regional nutrient management office with address, email or telephone changes as soon as possible.

▶ SUBSCRIBE TO MARYLAND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT NEWS ON-LINE

Save paper and be the first to know. Email nminfo.mda@maryland.gov to receive email notification of the latest issue of *Maryland Nutrient Management News*. Give your full name and preferred email address.

Maryland Nutrient Management News is published by the Maryland Nutrient Management Program. It is designed to help farmers, consultants, and lawn care professionals comply with Maryland's nutrient management regulations. Comments and suggestions should be directed to the Maryland Nutrient Management Program, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 410-841-5959 or nminfo.mda@maryland.gov.

